

delivering an aspiration catheter until its distal end is proximal to the occlusion;
crossing the site of the occlusion with the distal end of the aspiration catheter while aspirating, wherein the site of the occlusion is crossed with the distal end of the aspiration catheter in a proximal to distal direction while aspirating;

crossing the site of the occlusion with the distal end of the aspiration catheter in a distal to proximal direction while aspirating; and

repeating said crossing while aspirating in both a proximal to distal and in a distal to proximal direction.

48. (New) A method for treatment of an occlusion in a blood vessel, comprising:

delivering a guidewire having a distal end until the distal end is distal of said occlusion;

delivering an aspiration catheter until its distal end is proximal to the occlusion;

crossing the site of the occlusion with the distal end of the aspiration catheter while aspirating; and

exchanging the guidewire for a guidewire having an occlusive device on its distal end.

49. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein said exchange occurs through said aspiration catheter.

50. (New) A method for treatment of an occlusion in a blood vessel, comprising:

delivering a guidewire having a distal end until the distal end is distal of said occlusion;

delivering an aspiration catheter until its distal end is proximal to the occlusion;

crossing the site of the occlusion with the distal end of the aspiration catheter while aspirating; and

removing said aspiration catheter and advancing a therapy catheter over said guidewire.

51. (New) The method of Claim 50, wherein the site of the occlusion is crossed with the distal end of the aspiration catheter in a proximal to distal direction while aspirating.

52. (New) The method of Claim 51, further comprising crossing the site of the occlusion with the distal end of the aspiration catheter in a distal to proximal direction while aspirating.

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53. (New) The method of Claim 52, further comprising repeating said crossing while aspirating in both a proximal to distal and in a distal to proximal direction.

54. (New) The method of Claim 50, further comprising exchanging the guidewire for a guidewire having an occlusive device on its distal end.

55. (New) The method of Claim 54, wherein said exchange occurs through said aspiration catheter.

56. (New) The method of Claim 50, wherein the guidewire includes an occlusive device on its distal end.

57. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein said aspiration catheter is delivered before activating said occlusive device.

REMARKS

With this response, Claims 3-39 and 47-57 are now pending in the present application. By way of the present amendment, Applicant amended claims 10 and 37 to correct their dependency, and not for reasons of patentability. Additionally, Applicant canceled claims 40-46, and added new claims 47-57. New Claim 57 depends from allowed Claim 21 and is allowable for at least the same reasons Claim 21 is allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance regarding Claims 3-39. Additionally, the Examiner has indicated that claims 43-46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, new claims 47-50 correspond to canceled claims 43-46 and have been written to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claims 51-56 depend from Claim 50 and are allowable for at least the reasons as Claim 50. Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 47-57 are in condition for immediate allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the newly added claims overcome the prior art of record. Should there be any questions or issues that could be resolved via a telephone